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NEWS RELEASE

April 7, 1998

Contact: Kate Kahan, outreach coordinator, UM Women's Center, (406) 243-4153.

WEEK OF EVENTS PLANNED FOR 'TAKE BACK THE NIGHT'

MISSOULA--

According to national statistics, a woman is raped every two minutes in the United States. One in three women will experience rape or attempted rape in their lifetime. And a woman is physically abused every nine seconds.

These are the numbers underlying Missoula's upcoming Take Back the Night week, scheduled for April 13-19. Organizers hope that by educating the public and raising awareness, the number of women who are victimized by violent crime will decrease.

"This is an issue that affects everyone," said Erin Kautz, volunteer coordinator for the Women's Center at The University of Montana-Missoula, which organizes the event. "Most people know somebody who's been assaulted or they've been assaulted themselves. This is an epidemic that our country and our culture encourages and accepts ... and we're trying to stop that."

A number of Missoula organizations will join in presenting events during Take Back the Night week. The schedule includes everything from musical and theatrical performances to a violence prevention seminar, self-defense class and "day of peace and pampering" for survivors of sexual violence.

Take Back the Night's central focus, however, is the annual rally, march and speak-out, which begins at 7 p.m. Friday, April 17, at the Missoula County Courthouse. The evening

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event, which has been held in Missoula since 1977, began in England as a symbolic protest of violence against women. The community is invited to participate and observe.

"Our theme this year is 'Future Peace Requires Present Action,'" Kautz said. "We're hoping to get people active and involved to make this community better for future generations."

According to Kate Kahan, outreach coordinator for the Women's Center, the rally, march and speak-out aim to foster solidarity in the community.

"It's a very powerful and empowering event," Kahan said. "And our purpose is not only to protest, it's ultimately to grow and to heal. It's to get people talking about it."

In response to a recent Women's Center survey, men are being welcomed to Take Back the Night events this year.

"We're inviting them to participate because we don't want to silence anyone," Kahan said. "That doesn't promote healing. But at the same time, we're keeping the focus on women because violence affects women so much in our culture and our community."

Take Back the Night events are:

Monday, April 13 -- A kick-off reception and film presentation of "Antonia's Line" in Urey Lecture Hall. The reception begins at 7 p.m., followed by the movie at 8 p.m. Admission is free.

Tuesday, April 14 -- A performance by the Montana Transport Company, which will entertain the audience with modern dance pieces chosen to reflect the essence of Take Back the Night. The performance begins at 8 p.m. in UM's Music Recital Hall. Admission is free.

Wednesday, April 15 -- A multimedia performance titled "Drawing the Shades," which incorporates Missoula statistics, drama and music to tell the stories of four survivors of sexual violence. The free performance by the University Peer Educators begins at 7:30 p.m. at the

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New Crystal Theatre.

Thursday, April 16 -- A set of two seminars on violence prevention and after-violence strategies from 4 to 6:30 p.m. in the University Center Copper Commons. There is no charge to attend.

A poetry reading hosted by the UM chapter of LAMBDA at 7 p.m. at Bernice's Bakery. Admission is free.

Friday, April 17 -- Missoula's 21st annual Take Back the Night rally, march and speakout beginning at 7 p.m. at the Missoula County Courthouse.

Afterward, folk guitarist Jenn Adams will entertain across the street at Bagels on Broadway. The musical performance will begin at 9:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Saturday, April 18 -- The YWCA Sexual Assault Program sponsoring "A Day of Peace and Pampering for Survivors of Sexual Violence" from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the YWCA. Admission is free, and participants may come and go at any time during the day.

Also on Saturday, a two-day Self-Defense Workshop for women begins in Schreiber Gym. The workshop, which continues on Sunday, offers a beginners' section from 2 to 5:30 p.m. and an advanced section from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$20 for students and \$30 for community members; scholarships are available. To reserve a spot or for more information, call the Women's Center at 243-4153.

Sunday, April 19 -- Take Back the Night concludes with a Folk Show Fundraiser at the Old Post. Reva, a self-described "girly folk-punkrockers," will perform. Donations will be accepted.

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